

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 111694

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 13 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

MOST PAPERS FRONT-PAGE CAMBODIAN SEIZURE OF US MERCHANT
SHIP EN ROUTE HK-THAILAND. SEA-LAND SHIP "MAYAGUEZ"
FIRED UPON, TAKEN TO KOMPONG SOM. WH REACTED SWIFTLY,
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ANGRILY TO SEIZURE (JOC). PRES MET WITH NSC, CALLED
SEIZURE "ACT OF PIRACY," WARNED OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
(PHINQ). WH SOURCES SAID DECISION MADE USE WHATEVER FORCE
NECESSARY TO GAIN RELEASE OF VESSEL. NESSEN SAID DOS

INSTRUCTED DEMAND IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF SHIP. WH SOURCES SAID CAMBODIANS LAST WEEK CAPTURED PANAMANIAN VESSEL, AND SHIP BELIEVED STILL IN KOMPONG SOM. SEVERAL CONGRESSMAN URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF "MAYAGUEZ" (BECKMAN, CHITRIB).

CUTTING LOOSE FROM CAMBODIA PROVING UNEXPECTEDLY DIFFICULT FOR ADMIN. US REPORTEDLY SENDING WARSHIPS TOWARD AREA IN CASE EVENTUALLY NEEDED. NEW CAMBODIAN REGIME HASN'T EXPLAINED WHY GUNBOAT HALTED "MAYAGUEZ." WHAT CAN BE DONE TO GET SHIP, CREW RELEASED REMAINS UNCLEAR, SINCE MIL ACTION COULD PLACE 40-MAN CREW IN JEOPARDY. WH SAYS

SHIP 60 MILES OFF COAST WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED, BUT WAS ONLY 8 MILES FROM SMALL ISLAND CLAIMED BY BOTH CAMBODIA, VN (KEATLEY, WSJ).

SEA-LAND SPOKESMAN SAYS SHIP CARRIES COMBINATION OF MIL, COMMERCIAL CARGO AND WAS ON REGULAR RUN. DOS SAYS TAKING IMMEDIATE STEPS OBTAIN RELEASE, BUT WOULD NOT BE "HELPFUL" TO DISCUSS WHAT DOING. CONGRESSMEN REACTED WITH SHOCK, SOME BELLIGERANCE, THOUGH SOME ADVISE MODERATION. INCIDENT REMINISCENT OF "PUEBLO" AFFAIR. US CONSIDERS TERRITORIAL LIMIT 3 MILES, BUT CAMBODIA ONE OF ABOUT 40 NATIONS CLAIMING 12-MILE LIMIT (WIEGHART/CARTER, NYDN). SUN CARRIES AP LIST OF 39 CREWMEN; NYDN IDENTIFIES SHIP'S OFFICERS, DOES BACKGROUNDER ON SEA-LAND. NYDN'S GREENE OPINES SHIP SEIZURE "MAKES WAVES" IN PRES' PLANS AT TIME WHEN TRYING BEST PUT INDOCHINA WARS BEHIND HIM AND TURN FACE TO EUROPE. CSM'S SCHMIDT/SPERLING SEE US PLUNGED INTO MAJOR CONFRONTATION. BELIEVE INCIDENT SHOWS CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS THREATEN US FREEDOM OF SEAS IN AREAS; PRES DETERMINED MEET FORCE WITH NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDE; AND CAMBODIANS POSSES ENOUGH SEA POWER TO CAPTURE US SHIP.

USS "CORAL SEA" AND DESTROYERS DISPATCHED TO BACK DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS RECOVER "MAYAGUEZ." THOUGH UNCONFIRMED, UNCLASSIFIED

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BELIEVED PRC ACTING AS DIPLOMATIC INTERMEDIARY. ONE PLAUSIBLE THEORY IS THAT CAMBODIA TRYING ENFORCE CLAIM TO SMALL ISLAND NEAR LOCATION OF SEIZURE. PANAMANIAN, FIL MERCHANT SHIPS HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY GRABBED BUT LATER RELEASED IN PAST FEW DAYS IN SAME AREA (KUMPA, SUN). DESPITE THREATENING LANGUAGE, US RELIES ON DIPLOMACY, NOT MIL FORCE. APPROACHES MADE TO CHINA TO USE INFLUENCE. WIDESPREAD CONSENSUS IN DOS THAT IF MIL FORCE ATTEMPTED, PRES WOULD HAVE TO GO TO CONGRESS FIRST TO GET PERMISSION (MCCARTNEY, PHINQ).

APPEARS US MAKING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS FREE SHIP, NOT CONTEMPLATING IMMEDIATE MIL MEASURES. SINCE CAMBODIA

CLAIMS 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS, COULD RAISE QUESTION OF WHETHER PRESENCE OF SHIP 8-MILES FROM TINY, DISPUTED ISLAND WILL BE USED AS RATIONALE BY COMMUNIST GOVT; BUT INTL LAW RECOGNIZES "RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE" UNDER WHICH SHIP CAN PASS THROUGH TERRITORIAL WATERS. SEA-LAND OFFICIAL SAYS SHIP CARRIES MIL CARGO DESCRIBED AS PX GOODS, COMMISSARY SUPPLIES, AND SPARE PARTS, BUT NO GUNS, AMMO (GETLER/KILPATRICK, WP). DOS QUICKLY ASKED PEKING, THROUGH PRCLC IN WASHINGTON, TO HELP OBTAIN SHIP'S RELEASE. FOLLOW-UP MESSAGES WILL BE SENT TO PEKING. SOME SUPPORT VOICED ON HILL FOR "POLICE ACTION" BY PRES (SHABECOFF, NYT). NATL MARITIME UNION APPEALED TO INTL SEAMEN'S

FEDERATION TO WORK FOR SHIP'S RELEASE (NYT). SECSTATE SAYS CAMBODIA'S FAILURE RELEASE US SHIP COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES (REUTER, ST LOUIS). SINGAPORE'S LEE KWAN YEW APPEARS CAUTION US AGAINST PRECIPITATE ACTION TO RECOVER SHIP (REUTER, NY). CAMBODIAN INCIDENT STALLS NYSE RALLY (HILLERY, WSJ).

THREE OR 4 FRENCH NATIONALS REMAINED IN CAMBODIA. CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS THREATEN INCURSION UNLESS THAIS PULL BACK BORDER LINE ABOUT HALF-MILE, GIVE RTG WEEK TO ACT (AFP, NYT). SIHANOUK IN PEKING URGES ASIAN NATIONS ABANDON "PRO-IMPERIALIST" STAND, JOIN THIRD WORLD, ACCORDING JAPANESE LEGISLATOR (UPI, NYT). CAMBODIA'S NEW RULERS ADMIT GREAT DIFFICULTY, SAY PREPARED ACCEPT FOREIGN AID, BUT WITHOUT STRINGS. ABOUT-FACE SUGGESTS UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTENT OF PROBLEMS CREATED BY WAR AND CHAOS FOLLOWING EVACUATION OF BIG TOWNS (REUTER, NYT).

PL ASSERTS CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNIST MIL FORCES IN LAOS, RIGHT-WING COMMANDERS FALL INTO LINE. PL ACCUSES THAILAND OF SUPPORTING COUP TO OVERTHROW LEFTISTS, BUT RTG DENIES ALLEGATION. DOS SAYS NO PLANS EVACUATE 1000 AMERICANS IN LAOS. VIENTIANE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES HALT GROUPS OF VIETS, CHINESE SEEKING TO LEAVE ALTHOUGH HAVE VALID EXIT VISAS (CHITRIB). ARMED FORCES SHIFT MEANS PL FACE VIRTUALLY NO RESISTANCE AS MOVE TOWARD ESTABLISHING FULL CONTROL IN LAOS (PHINQ). SOUVANNA MAKES RADIO APPEAL FOR CALM TO LAOTIANS AND FOREIGNERS WORRIED BY POLITICAL DETERIORATION (UPI, NYDN). RULING GENERALS REPORTED FLEEING AS PL ORDERS PLANES GROUNDED. AUSSIE EMBASSY BEGINS SENDING DEPENDENTS OUT (ANDELMAN, NYT). BOTH DOS AND WH OFFICIALS REACT CALMLY TO APPARENT PL TAKEOVER, SAY HAVE NO PLANS EVACUATE AMERICANS. ANALYSTS EXPECT LAOS FOLLOW PATH OF CAMBODIA, SVN, BUT SOME SURPRISE AT SPEED OF PL MOVE TO PUSH RIGHTISTS OUT OF COALITION. SOUVANNA APPEARS ARRANGING SMOOTH TRANSITION (SUN). RECENT EVENTS DISCOURAGE PARENTS OF

CHARLES DEAN, BEING HELD BY PL SINCE DEC 14; FATHER
WILL CONFER AGAIN FRIDAY WITH AMB WHITEHOUSE (NYT).

IN REPEATED BROADCASTS SAIGON RADIO SAYS SOME STILL
RESIST REGIME, BUT NO DIRECT ACCOUNTS (NYT). SERIES
OF PRG ANNOUNCEMENTS, INCLUDING CALL FOR 3-DAY HOLIDAY
THIS WK TO CELEBRATE COMMUNIST VICTORY, INDICATE
ORGANIZATION EXERTING MORE POLITICAL CONTROL IN SAIGON
(WP). PRG, NOT MIL OR NVN, APPEARS IN CHARGE OF NEW
SAIGON GOVT. DEVELOPMENT TEMPORARILY ENDED SPECULATION
NEW REGIME RUN BY VC MIL LEADERS OR NVN CIVILIANS

(PHINQ; UPI, NYDN). "PLAYBOY" AND VC FLAGS SELLING WELL
IN SAIGON (UPI, WP). SAIGON RADIO SAID OVER 5000 MIL,
POLICE, AND "INTELLIGENCE AGENTS" OF OLD REGIME TURNED
SELVES IN DURING FIRST 2 DAYS OF SPECIAL REGISTRATION
(AP, SUN).

IN SINGAPORE, 6 VESSELS LEFT FOR VN AS CREWS, REFUGEES
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RETURN OUT OF FRUSTRATION AND FEAR NO COUNTRY WOULD
ACCEPT THEM (AP, SUN). SINGAPORE GOVT SAID SHIPS SLIPPED
AWAY UNDETECTED AND ANOTHER REFUGEE VESSEL ALSO PLANS
RETURN SAIGON; ADDED 3 OTHER SHIPS WITH 400 REFUGEES
LEFT MONDAY FOR PHILS AND GUAM, AND 25 SMALLER SHIPS
WITH ABOUT 450 VIET REFUGEES AND 2 LARGER CRAFT WITH
850 REMAIN ANCHORED OFF PORT (REUTER, CHITRIB). HANOI
DEMANDS SINGAPORE RETURN ALL SHIPS, AIRCRAFT USED BY
S VIETS TO FLEE (PHINQ). SPECIAL UN ENVOY WHO SPENT
3 WKS IN HANOI SAYS UNIFICATION IS "FINAL AIM" (TELTSCH,
NYT). OLD SAIGON REGIME SOUGHT WITHDRAW 40 MILLION DOLS
IMF FUNDS BUT FELL BEFORE AUTHORITY OF REQUEST CLARIFIED
(REUTER, NYT).

DOD OFFICIAL SAYS ABOUT 2 BILLION DOLS IN SERVICEABLE MIL
EQUIPMENT HAD FALLEN INTO NVN HANDS WITH COLLAPSE,
SURRENDER OF ARVN. US HAD MANAGED "EXTRICATE" ABOUT 500
MILLION DOLS WORTH OF PLANES AND SHIPS IN FINAL DAYS OF
WAR (NYT). SECDEF HAD PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED NVA HAUL AT
5 BILLION DOLS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT, BUT NEW ESTIMATE
INDICATES BULK DESTROYED OR UNUSABLE (CORDDRY, SUN).

OPPOSITION TO VIET REFUGEES IN CONGRESSIONAL MAIL FADING,
GIVING WAY TO COMPASSION (ROZHON, SUN). SFRC APPROVES
405 MILLION DOL AUTHORIZATION FOR VIET REFUGEES (PHINQ).
ACTION FOLLOWED TESTIMONY BY ADMIN OFFICIALS FOR QUICK
ACTION TO EASE BOTTLENECK OF REFUGEES HOUSED IN TEMPORARY
QUARTERS IN W PAC AND AT 3 MIL BASES IN US. AMB BROWN
SAID SYSTEM "BLOCKED" AND REFUGEES NOT MOVING OUT OF
US BASES TO MAKE ROOM FOR OTHERS BECAUSE OF SECURITY
CHECKS, LACK OF FUNDS (MEYER, WP). LEGISLATION SHOULD BE

READY FOR FULL SENATE TODAY, BUT NO WORD ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE ACTUALLY CALLED UP. SEN MANSFIELD WANTS MORE INFO ON WHETHER POSSIBLE USE UNSPENT MIL AID FUNDS (PEPPER, SUN). SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION INDICATES BOTH HOUSES WOULD APPROVE SIMILAR REFUGEE LEGISLATION, PERHAPS BY THIS WK'S END. DOD SAYS CONSIDERING SETTING UP 4TH REFUGEE CAMP IN US (MADDEN, NYT). PENDLETON FULL (UPI, NYT). CHAFFEE EXPANDING CAPACITY FROM 20,000 TO 24,000 (AP, NYT). LAST BIG REFUGEE GROUP ARRIVES GUAM, AS 16,000 LAND; 4000 MORE DUE SOON (MALCOLM, NYT). SEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUREZK URGES CONGRESS FORBID DOD HIRE FOR 1 YR ANY S

VIET REFUGEE WHO MAY HAVE SERVED US AS POLITICAL ASSASSIN OR TORTURER DURING WAR (CHITRIB). FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER CUT THROUGH RED TAPE AT SAIGON WITH FAST-TALKING, QUICK THINKING TO GET VIET WIFE'S RELATIVES OUT (AP, CSM).

IN MAY 13 SPEECH BEFORE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL IN ST LOUIS, SECSTATE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT COMMUNIST TAKEOVERS IN CAMBODIA, SVN AND APPARENTLY IN LAOS MIGHT LEAD TO SOVIET EXPANSIONISM IN SEA (NYT). HAK CALLS US RETREAT INTO ISOLATIONISM BECAUSE OF INDOCHINA FAILURE RISKY, STATES WOULD THREATEN WORLD STABILITY. GIVES PRIORITIES AS MAINTAINING CLOSE TIES WITH W EUR, CANADA, AND JAPAN, AND CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DETENTE WITH USSR, PRC (MILLS, SUN). SECSTATE SAYS FACT WE FAILED IN INDOCHINA ENDEAVOR DOES NOT INVALIDATE ALL OTHERS; IN EFFECT, CAUTIONE AGAINST SOVIET ACTIONS IN ME, PORTUGAL, AND INDOCHINA (BERGER, WP). RETD ADM ZUMWALT SAYS VIET WAR WAS MISTAKE SINCE US HAD NO NAT'L INTEREST, NO REASON GET INVOLVED (UPI, CHITRIB).

2. CHINA

SECY MORTON ARRIVED PEKING MONDAY FOR "INFORMAL TRADE TALKS" (NYT).

NCNA FRIDAY MOVED PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL, ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY V-E DAY, CRITICIZING BREZHNEV, KHRUSCHEV FOR TURNING SOVIET INTO NATION DOMINATED BY "SOCIAL-FASCISM." EDIT CHARGED SOVIET STEPPING UP EFFORTS "EMBARK ON HITLER'S BEATEN TRACK OF WORLD DOMINATION." SAID US "INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE AND STRATEGICALLY PASSIVE" (UPI, LAT 5/10).

TENG HSIAO-PING RECEIVED HEAD-OF-STATE HONORS ON ARRIVAL PARIS MONDAY TO BEGIN SIX DAY STATE VISIT (CSM). NYT'S FLORA LEWIS NOTES LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO MAO, CHOU, HIGHEST PRC OFFICIAL TO VISIT WEUR, AND FRANCE PROUD PARIS HIS ONLY STOP (WITH UPI PHOTO OF CHIRAC GREETING TENG). TENG

TO DISCUSS SEA FUTURE AFTER US PULL-OUT (CHITRIB). AFTER
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FIRST ROUND OF TALKS, CHIRAC SAYS FRANCE, PRC AGREE
HOLD REGULAR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AT FM LEVEL (WP).

A U TRACK AND FIELD TEAM DEPARTED MONDAY FROM EARTH,
SHANGHAI, PEKING. INCLUDES 43 MALE, 23 FEMALE ATHLETES.
AAU PRES SCALZO SAYS WON'T BE SURPRISED IF RECENT SEA
EVENTS RAISED, BUT SURE OF RECEIVING "WARM RECEPTION
IN THE SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP" (MIKE HUGHES, UPI, PHINQ).
HAMMER THROWER AL HALL, VETERAN OF EARLIER SOVIET VISIT,
EXPECTS SURPRISES, BUT ALL "WILL BE ON THE POSITIVE SIDE"
(AP, SUN).

NCNA MONDAY REPORTED FASTER RISE IN OUTPUT OF RICE THAN
OTHER GRAINS, BECAUSE PADDY FIELDS EXPANDED IN NORTH AND
SOUTH, IRRIGATION FACILITIES INCREASED (AFP, WP).

USDA SAYS AGREEMENT REACHED TAIPEI FRIDAY FOR CCC EXTEND
TAIWAN 25 MILLION DOL CREDIT TO FINANCE DELIVERY OF
OVERDUE US COTTON CONTRACTS (JOC).

3. JAPAN

SECY MORTON DISCUSSED TRADE PROBLEMS WITH COUNTERPART
MITI KOMOTO MONDAY. SOURCES SAY AGREED COOPERATE TO
BRING ABOUT NEW INTL ROUND TO REDUCE TARIFFS, ELIMINATE
NTB'S (NYT). CULLISON (JOC) SAYS ALSO AGREED COOPERATE
IN PUSHING WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE, INCLUDING CONSUMERS,
PRODUCERS, AND LDCS, BUT SOURCES SAY KOMOTO EXPLAINED
JAPAN "NOT AS EAGER" FOR CONFERENCE AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED
BY US.

FIVE-THOUSAND DELEGATES FROM 73 NATIONS ATTEND SIX-DAY
WORLD PETROLEUM CONGRESS TOKYO. TOLD MONDAY "GIANT
OIL FIELDS IN WORLD" STILL CONTAIN ESTIMATED 787 BIL BBLs
(UPI, NYT).

JSP DELEGATION, CHINA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSN ISSUE
JOINT STATEMENT PEKING MONDAY OPPOSING "HEGEMONISM
OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS," CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF US-
JAPAN MST, REMOVAL OF US BASES (WP). JSP CHAIRMAN NARITA,
ASSN PRES LIAO CHENG-CHIH SIGN AFTER CHINESE OVERCAME
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JSP OBJECTIONS TO INCLUSION OF CLAUSE ATTACKING SOVIET
HEGEMONY (AFP, NYT).

MAINICHI REPORTED MONDAY GOJ PLANS RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

WITH NVN ON 16.67 MILLION DOL COMMODITY AID TO HELP REHABILITATE INDOCHINA ECONOMY. ALSO PLAN DISCUSS OPENING JAPANESE EMBASSY HANOI IN NEXT ROUND TALKS IN VIENTIANE (CHITRIB).

BANK OF TOKYO SAYS JAPANESE EXCHANGE BANK SYNDICATE AGREES EXTEND PERTAMINA FIVE-YR LOAN; AMOUNT BETWEEN 100-200 MILLION DOLS TO BE FIXED AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MOF (REUTER, NYT).

NEW JAPAN STEEL SAYS EARNINGS SLUMPED 39 PERCENT IN SECOND HALF JFY 74, DESPITE 20 PERCENT RISE SALES (WSJ, TOKYO).

4. KOREA

PRES PARK, WORRIED ABOUT COMMUNIST INDOCHINA VICTORIES, SEEN MOVING SK TOWARD "TOTAL SECURITY POSTURE... WARTIME EMERGENCY SITUATION" AMID REPORTS OF OPPOSITION PARTY SUPPORT (CSM). PARK SEEN GETTING MORE SUPPORT FOR CLAIM SK SECURITY MORE SERIOUSLY THREATENED THAN ANY TIME SINCE 1953 (AP, NYDN, SUN). NDP AGREES TO DRP PROPOSAL CALL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION SATURDAY TO ADOPT BIPARTISAN NATL SECURITY RESOLUTION, INDICATES SUPPORT "IN PRINCIPLE" FOR TWO NEW SECURITY LAWS BEING DRAFTED BY GOVT, TO PLACE FORMER COMMUNISTS UNDER STRICTER SURVEILLANCE (AP, NYT, WP) AND TO RESTRICT MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL OUT OF COUNTRY (AP, PHINQ).

5. THAILAND

CHATICHAI DEPARTS FOR KL TO ATTEND ASEAN; TELLS PRESS WOULD SPONSOR INDOCHINA RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, OPEN ASSN TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN REGION (AP, SUN). ALSO TELLS PRESS SAIGON REPRESENTATIVE DUE ARRIVE BANGKOK FRIDAY TO DISCUSS REFUGEES, RECONSTRUCTION, DIPLOMATIC TIES AND PLANES SVIETS FLEW TO THAILAND; NVN UNCLASSIFIED

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DELEGATION DUE BEFORE END OF MAY. SAYS PRG CABLE ASKED MFA INFORM ALLSVN SHIPS RETURN HOME; PLANS URGE DO SO, AFTER DISCUSSING WITH PRG (AP, SUN REUTER, CHITRIB).

KUKRIT TELLS PRESS MEO GENL VANG PAO FLED INTO THAILAND FROM LAOS (AP, NYT).

SVIET REFUGEE GROUP ISSUES PRESS RELEASE BANGKOK ASKING "FREE NATIONS" GRANT THEM ENTRY (SUN). MORE THAN 1,000 THAIS DEMONSTRATE THIRD DAY IN ROW IN NE TOWN SAKON NAKHON, CALLING FOR EXPLUSION OF ALL SVIET REFUGEES (WP; REUTER, NYT, CHITRIB).

KR COMMANDER CALLS ON THAILAND RETURN ALL CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WITHIN 1 MONTH, ACCORDING RTG OFFICIAL IN ARANYAPRATHET (AFP, NYT).

KR FORCES GIVE THAILAND SEVEN DAYS TO PULL BORDER LINE BACK 1 KM IN TRAT PROV, ACCORDING BANGKOK POST TUESDAY. KR ACCUSE RTG OF "USURPING CAMBODIAN TERRITORY" DURING 5-YR LON NOL RULE (REUTER, BANGKOK).

6. PHILIPPINES

AMB MARTIN RETURNS MANILA AFTER WEEK REST IN BAGUIO; DECLINES COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS DELAYED SVIET EVACUATION

(WP).

AMCIT AUGUST MCCORMICK LEHMAN ON TRIAL ON CHARGE TRIED REPEATEDLY KILL MARCOS TELLS PRESS DURING RECESS "DEFINITELY DID NOT COME HERE TO KILL ANYONE"; UNDER ARREST SINCE 1972. ALSO CHARGED AS MEMBERS OF PLOT ARE AMCITS LARRY TRACTMAN, ROBERT PINCLO (NOT IN CUSTODY) AND BRITISHER ELLIS H.R. DAVIS (UNDER ARREST). SERGIO OSMENA ONE OF 29 FILS CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN PLOT (AP, NYT).

COLUMNIST TEODORO VALENCIA, CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH MARCOS, REPORTED MONDAY GOP PLANNING CONVERT CLARK AB INTO UNIVERSITY COMPLEX, IN ANTICIPATION OF DAY "WE CAN MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICANS GO"; SAYS RANGES AND RESERVES AT CLARK, SUBIC TO BE CONVERTED TO AGRICULTURE (WP; AP, CHITRIB).

LAT'S LAMB NOTES GOP SENT ANOTHER TEAM OF NEGOTIATORS SOUTH OVER WEEKEND TO SEEK SOLUTION TO MOSLEM INSURGENCY. COMMENTS SKEPTICS NOTE GOP TALKS MOSTLY TO PEACEFUL MOSLEMS AS MARCOS SEEMS RELY ON PUBLIC RELATIONS TO GAIN WHAT CAN NOT WIN ON BATTLEFIELD. OBSERVES GOP AIM MAY BE TO ISOLATE EXTREMIST MOSLEMS, WIN SUPPORT OF MODERATES.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

NYT SAYS PRC AND NVN ARE BEST-PLACED OUTSIDE POWERS TO SEEK URGENT CLARIFICATION OF NEW CAMBODIAN REGIME'S SEIZURE OF UNARMED AMERICAN MERCHANT VESSEL, AND IT IS IN THEIR OWN INTEREST TO DO SO (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT'S WICKER (MAY 11) SAYS SWEEPING DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE IN CAMBODIA, WHILE NO BLOODBATH SEEMS AS BAD.

WSTAR (MAY 11) SAYS, ASSUMING GENOCIDE CAN BE INFLICTED ON ONE'S OWN PEOPLE, THIS IS RIGHT WORD FOR FORCED EXODUS OF CAMBODIANS FROM CITIES. NOTES SCHANBERG'S CONFESSION HE ERRED IN BELIEVING PP'S SUFFERING WOULD BE ENDED UNDER COMMUNIST RULE, AND URGES US PEOPLE AND CONGRESS TAKE HEED. WSTAR'S MCGRORY (MAY 12), CITING SCHANBERG'S REVELATIONS OF SAVAGERY WITH WHICH KHMER ROUGE IS SEALING ITS VICTORY, PRAISES HIS CONTINUED DEVOTATION TO CAMBODIAN PEOPLE RATHER THAN STRATEGY, POLICY OR OFFICIAL LINE. WP (MAY 11) FEELS HAD US NOT BROKEN OLD PATTERNS OF CAMBODIAN SOCIETY BY INVADING COUNTRY IN 1970, LIKELY THAT WAR WOULD NOT HAVE SPREAD TO CAMBODIA, AND LAND

WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN WASTED, PEOPLE BRUTALIZED, AND COMMUNISTS GIVEN OPENING THEY ARE SO HEARTLESSLY EXPLOITING NOW (ALL IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

AFP'S MANNOCK, IN PARIS (WP), SUGGESTS KEY TO WHAT MOTIVATES UNCLASSIFIED

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CAMBODIA'S NEW RULERS MAY LIE MORE IN COUNTRY'S HISTORY THAN MARXIST THEORY. RECALLS ABANDONMENT OF CAPITAL NOTHING NEW, MAGIC PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN CAMBODIAN LIFE TO THIS DAY, XENOPHOBIA HAS DEEP HISTORIC ROOTS, NOR IS BLIND OBEDIENCE DEMANDED BY KR LEADERSHIP NEW PHENOMENON (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

DISPUTING "JOY" OF NATIONAL JOURNALS AND MEDIA OVER VN OUTCOME, CHITRIB'S GREELEY MAINTAINS WHILE IT MEANT IMMENSE HUMAN SUFFERING, TRAGEDY, IN TERMS OF US POWER VN WAS "TRIVIAL EVENT."

NYT'S SHIPLER (MAY 11) EXPECTS AID WILL FLOW TO NEW SVN REGIME FROM PRC, SOVIET, OTHER COMMUNIST STATES. NOTING NEW GOVT SAYS IT MIGHT WELCOME US HELP THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, HOLDS IF FORTHCOMING IT WOULD MARK BEGINNING OF NEW CHAPTER IN US RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA AT PEACE. IN LETTER TO WP REPLYING TO "HALF-TRUTHS" OF CHILDS' 4/29 COLUMN, ADM MOORER SUGGESTS CONGRESS' "HOBBLING" ADMIN MAY HAVE INSPIRED HANOI DRIVE AGAINST SVN; DENIES HANOI EVER RAZED OR "CARPET BOMBING" PERFORMED; WITHOUT US BOMBING, POWS WOULD STILL BE IN HANOI PRISONS; FACT NIXON DIRECTED WAR'S AERIAL CONDUCT IS TRIBUTE TO HIS COURAGE. IN WP, FRANCES FITZGERALD (MAY 11) CONTENTS PREDICTION OF SVN BLOODBATH WAS NEVER FOUNDED IN REALITY; LOOKS FOR EARLY SVN COALITION GOVT OF OLD NLF LEADERSHIP, PRG, MENTERS OF OLD FRONT ALLIANCE GROUPS AND THIRD FORCE REPS. (ALL IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SUN'S ISAACS (MAY 11), IN HK, SEES SURPRISING MODERATION OF INITIAL PERIOD OF COMMUNIST RULE IN SVN LEAVING HOPE

THAT FUTURE MAY NOT BE DARK AS FEARED.

CDN'S TAMARKIN (MAY 8) QUOTES HIGH US DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL FROM SAIGON THAT US NEVER HAD EVACUATION POLICY FOR VIETS WITH CLOSE US TIES, AND TIME RAN OUT BEFORE ONE FORMULATED. SOURCE DEFENDS AMB MARTIN'S HANDLING OF EVACUATION, NOTHING THAT WHILE FIRST MENTION VIET EVACUATION MADE BY PRES IN MID-APRIL, AMEMBASSY SAIGON HAD BEEN IN MIDDLE OF QUIET EVACUATION FOR MORE THAN MONTH. CDN OF SAME DATE CITES OTHER TAMARKIN, KEYES BEECH REPORTS AS BUTRESSING UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITICISM THAT MARTIN ACTED UNWISELY IN DELAYING EVACUATION. INSISTS FIXING RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD NOT BE SIDETRACKED BY FORD'S REAFFIRMATION CONFIDENCE IN MARTIN.

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ANDERSON/WHITTEN (WP) CLAIM MARTIN NEVER LOST FAITH IN THIEU "UNTIL SAIGON BEGAN COLLAPSING AROUND HIS EARS," AND BECAUSE OF AMB, TENS OF THOUSANDS VIETS WHO HAD WORKED FOR US AND COULD HAVE BEEN RESCUED, WERE LEFT BEHIND (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LAT'S MCARTHUR (MAY 11) SAYS NOT ONLY WERE DESERVING VIETS LEFT BEHIND BY US EVACUATION EFFORT, BUT SO WERE SOME AMERICANS, "OF WHOM NO ONE OFFICIALLY SPEAKS RIGHT NOW." SAYS AMB MARTIN IGNORED OR AVOIDED ORDERS HE FOUND IMPOSSIBLE, AND ADM WHITMIRE BYPASSED WH AND DOD ORDERS ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION. MARTIN BOTH PRAISED AND DAMNED FOR PERMITTING SUCH LOOSE INTERPRETATION OF MIL AND DOS REGULATIONS/DIRECTIVES THAT VIRTUALLY ANY VIET COULD QUALIFY FOR REFUGEE STATUS. AMID SO MUCH CONFUSION, CHANCES OF DEEP CONGRESSIONAL PROBE DIMINISHED.

WSTAR'S NOYES (MAY 11) SEES ROTTENEST HELPING OF RECRIMINATION BEING RESERVED FOR AMB MARTIN; SEES AS AMB'S REAL SIN IN EYES OF MANY CRITICS HIS BELIEF IN HIS VN MISSION (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

CHITRIB (MAY 13) SEES LAOS COALITION GOVT GOING WAY OF EVERY SUCH REGIME IN WHICH COMMUNISTS HAVE PARTICIPATED -- IT HAS BECOME COMMUNIST GOVT. WE'RE NOW BACK TO JFK'S SCRIPT, WITH THAIS NEXT DOMINO IN LINE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505102/baaaajnm.tel
Line Count: 536
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
HONG KONG
JEC PARIS
MOSCOW
TREASURY INFO USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD
BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

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